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Union Committee Rooms,

49 MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE,

New York, Oct. 23, 1860.

TO THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION!

It is now fully demonstrated, that to this State, at the approaching Election, are committed the destinies of our common country. Emphatically, as the State of New York shall go, so will go the Union.

Governor Morgan, of this State, has declared that Lincoln "is already elected," and that what remains to be done, in the deliberate voting of the people of this State, is but a formal act, to execute an irrevocable Republican decree.

This proclamation of triumph by the Governor of the State of New York has produced a profound impression throughout the whole country.

We find the people of the Southern States of the confederacy already in a condition of alarm and intense excite-

ment the business relations between the two sections of the Union at once almost entirely arrested, and a condition of feeling produced among our brethren of the South calculated to excite the gravest apprehensions as to the consequences, in the minds of all reflecting citizens, who treasure the welfare of their country.

While we discover at the North a powerful political party celebrating an anticipated victory which will give them possession of the Federal Government, we find the entire People of the South filled with gloom and dismay, in contemplation of the bare possibility of such a triumph.

This is a spectacle which cannot be lightly considered. In every view, it betokens peril, and indicates the necessity for deliberate and serious counsel, ere it be too late. Can we risk the consequences of such a victory?

We do not intend to exaggerate the difficulties and evils which are upon us; we desire simply to present the question which cannot be avoided, and must be solved, in its true light, that if there be any who have not considered it in all its magnitude, reflection may come in time.

The doctrines of the Republican party, and the principles upon which Mr. Lincoln, if elected, will seek to administer the government, are open and avowed—there is no concealment, and no room for doubt.

In the Congress of the United States, and from the ros-

trum in every city and village of the North, the leaders of the Republican Party have for years held toward the People of the South, the language of hostility and irritation, while their declared principles have been aggressively antagonistic to the rights, interests, and feelings of that entire section of our Country.

With this condition of feeling and of principle, it is inevitable, that if the Republicans conquer in this contest, the South will be wholly without representation in the executive branch of the general government. We shall not stop to enter into any argument to show to what logical consequences the doctrine of the "irrepressible conflict" leads, nor to dwell upon the Republican principle of "all slave or all free"—they are as palpable as the maxims of the "higher law," and have been too often expounded by their authors, to require elaboration or comment. They are principles which point with destroying hand, in but one direction.

Our Union was founded in a patriotic spirit of conciliation and concord, and upon wise principles of compromise and concession—Justice, Equality and Fraternity were then the watchwords of national unity.

Let us ask the question, if that great work were to be now performed, could it be effected upon the principles, and in the spirit which are manifested by the "Republicans" of to day? Is not this an instructive test of the danger with which we are menaced?

The Republicans declare in view of the events which sur-

round their expected success, that "submission" shall be enforced. Can there be such a thing as a conquered submission by one half of a Republican government, against the other resisting portion? Is it not the argument of destruction?

If the time shall ever arrive when that calamitous necessity is presented, where shall be the end? To which section will be the victory, and how shall the conquest be maintained?

These are considerations which now force themselves upon the public mind—they are the thoughts of this hour—this time of trial and danger, and must be met and answered.

Shall the extremity be reached, when it is in the power of the people of this State to extend the hand of protection to their threatened brethren of the South, and to proclaim that fanaticism, aggression and wrong, shall never be permitted to make war against those with whom we are allied in terms of amity, peace and fraternity? Are we prepared to have the prosperity and welfare of the whole country placed in jeopardy, while we hold the means of assured safety within our grasp? Can our patriotic men hesitate in their answer? Let but this period of danger be passed, and our country will be anchored in safety—and Slavery agitation will never again be found an element of threatened peril to our existence as a united people. Perpetual peace will be the enduring reward if we now succeed. But, if this conflict be pushed to the last extremity, who can estimate the consequences?

We feel assured that the people of this State will rise to the emergency, and prove themselves equal to the duty which has devolved upon them. We are justified in declaring that the announcement of the Executive at Albany is without warrant from the Electors of this State, and that they will cast their votes regardless of the proclamation of the *Governor*, on the side of the Union, and on behalf of the constitutional rights of every section of our country.

Determined and vigorous organization is going on in every county and district of the State, and we have the most cheering accounts of good work being done by the National men of New York everywhere within our borders, from the Lakes to the Ocean, clearly indicating that, if we will but labor to the end, the coming Election will be crowned with a triumphant victory to our cause. The UNION upon our Electoral Ticket is perfect, unbroken and unchangeable.

This great commercial city, true to the interest and duty which it owes to the union of the States, which is the foundation of its growth, its power and its prosperity, will give an overwhelming vote against Lincoln and Republicanism. This State has ever been conservative and loyal to the Union. *New York has never yet given a majority on the whole vote in favor of Republicanism*, and we firmly believe she never will.

At the late Presidential Election, this State gave a combined vote against the Republican candidate of 320,482.

while Fremont received but 276,000, showing a Conservative majority of nearly 45,000.

In 1858, the united vote against Morgan, for Governor, was 291,393, while the latter polled but 247,953 votes, yielding a majority against him, if the vote had been concentrated, of 43,440.

At the election of last year, the Democratic candidate for Secretary of State, uniting the opposition vote, was elected over the Republican candidate.

Although the Union majority on that occasion was not as great as at the previous election, the returns show that the deficiency arose wholly from the want of sufficient interest at this end of the State to bring out a full vote. To prove this:—in 1856, the combined Union vote in the Counties of New York and Kings was 81,656, against 25,617 for Fremont—showing a Union majority of 59,039 votes, while the aggregate Union vote last year in these two counties was but 51,794, without any sensible increase to the Republican vote; proving that nearly 35,000 Union voters remained away from the poll; as compared with 1856.

Since 1856 the number of Voters in these two Counties has increased at least one-third, preserving the like ratio against the Republicans. It must therefore be obvious that New York and Kings Counties have but to do their duty to give a Majority of over 60,000 Votes! in favor of the Union Electoral Ticket, a majority more than sufficient to triumphantly overcome the Republicans in the State.

Are we not therefore justified in counselling hope and in promising victory?

UNION MEN OF NEW YORK :

The prosperity, safety and unity of the States of this confederacy are in danger. It is in your power to overcome the enemy, and to conquer a peace for the whole country. Let it go forth to the world that you are at your posts, ready for action—and that the Empire State will prove herself, when the hour of trial is at hand, a protecting shield against sectionalism and aggression, and the Citadel of the Union!

CHARLES O'CONOR,
SAMUEL F. BUTTERWORTH,
EDWIN CROSWELL,
HENRY GRINNELL,
S. L. M. BARLOW,
WILSON G. HUNT,
SAMUEL J. TILDEN,
PETER B. SWEENY,
DANIEL F. TIEMANN,
JAMES MUNROE,
DANIEL DEVLIN,
ANDREW MOUNT,
CHARLES A. SECOR,

Committee.

JOSHUA J. HENRY, *Chairman.*

JEHIAL READ, *Secretary.*

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